



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

III. *Observatio cujusdam Meteoris igniti instar Chasmatidis, facta Hagae-Comit. d. 21 Decembr. 1758. Nov. St. à Petro Gabry, I. V. D. Socio Reg. Societat. Scientiar. Londin. et Commercio Literarum cum Acad. Reg. Scientiar. Parisiens. et Societ. Reg. Scient. Gottingens. juncto. Communicated by Mr. Emanuel Mendez da Costa, Librarian of the R. S.*

Read Jan. 13,
1763.

HORA octava vespertina, lumen in-
figne, sive meteoron ignitum instar
chasmatis, à me conspiciebatur in cœli plaga ferè oc-
cidentalì, quum cœlum eo tempore esset nebulosum,
perobscurum et tranquillum, zephyro leniter spirante.
Aër hoc tempore erat caloris ferè temperati, nam
thermometrum mercuriale sub dio denotabat grad. 47.
Interdum plaga cœli occidua ardere videbatur, et aër
una cum inferioribus nebulis in flammâ fumosque
mutatus. Ipso momento contigit etiam, ut ex ipsa
plaga effulgentes flammæ aliquando ad zenith ferè
usque ascenderent, et speciem radiorum ejaculantium
efformarent usque circa cœli verticem.

Paulò post fulgor apparebat candens et satis nota-
bilis, repræsentans ignem quasi continuum instar
massæ igneæ: sub initium fulgor tenuis debilisque erat,
mox vero auctus, à plaga aquilonari ad occidentalem
ultra extendebatur, haud absimilis lumini in horizonte
comparenti proxime ante solis ortum. Paulò post
fulgor

fulgor rutilum ducebat colorem, ita ut ego, et alii mecum, incendium in vicinia extra urbem coortum arbitraremur; sed aliter edocebamur, cum fulgor sensim altius supra horizontem eveheretur, tantum emittens lumen, ut circumjectas ædes collustraret.

Ex ipsa massa ignea flammæ tam rapido mittebantur motu, ut duorum triumve secundorum spatio ab horizonte sensibili ad zenith ferè eveherentur, paululum autem ad septentrionem vergentes. Dictam massam evanescentem excipiebat altera, flammæ itidem ejaculans. Quædam flammæ ascendere videbantur, altius tamen quam in vulgaribus incendiis evolabant; quippe quæ ferè ad zenith usque tendebant, aliæ ab horizonte sensibili ortæ rutuli erant coloris, ferri instar igniti.

Hujus meteori figura valde mutabilis erat, ita ut nec certam descriptionem neque minus ejus delineationem dare possim; licet hoc spectaculum pariter jucundum et quodam modo visu horrendum esset.

Hic notatu dignum mihi esse videbatur, quod ejusmodi meteoron, tempestate regelata, nebulosa, et, quod magis est, pluviosa, tanta nitebat luce, ut non lunæ, sed illam potius imitaretur lucem, quæ solem tempore æstivo orientem præcedere solet. Fluctuum quoque instar marinorum aut segetis spicatæ in agro undulantis, vento acrius spirante, agitabatur. Micatio præterea continua cernebatur, qualis interdum tempore æstivo vesperi vel noctu è nubibus promicare cernitur, et apud nos vulgo *Zee-vlammen* appellantur.

Hora autem octava cum dimidia meteoron hoc evanuerat, ita ut ne minimum ejus vestigium amplius à me conspiceretur.